Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) In a ratchetable open-ended wrench for turning a rotatable element with a flat-to-flat dimension, the wrench having ~~which has~~ (1) first and second jaws, (2) a base area connecting the jaws, (3) a retractable jaw member slidable within a slot in the second jaw and projecting toward the base area, and (4) a first cover plate on a first side of the second jaw to limit the lateral movement of the retractable jaw member within the slot, the improvement wherein the cover plate is a load-bearing structural member within the second jaw by virtue of the cover plate being projection-welded ~~welded~~ to the second jaw on both sides of the slot, whereby the cover plate serves the dual functions of providing encasement of the retractable jaw member and additional structural integrity to the second jaw. ~~such that the cover plate forms a load-bearing structural member within the second jaw~~.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The wrench of claim 1 [[2]] further including:

- the slot extending through the second jaw from the first side to a second side thereof;
- a second cover plate projection-welded ~~welded~~ to [[a]] the second side of the second jaw on both sides of the slot such that both the first and second cover plates form ~~plate forms a~~ load-bearing structural members ~~member~~ within the second jaw~~, the second cover plate limiting lateral movement of the retractable jaw member within the slot~~.

5. (currently amended) The wrench of claim 1 [[2]] wherein the cover plate is recessed in the second jaw such that the outer surface of the cover plate is substantially flush with the lateral surface of the second jaw.

6. (original) The wrench of claim 1 wherein the retractable jaw member has an outer corner having a radius of at least 3% of the flat-to-flat dimension of the rotatable element for which the wrench is sized.

7. (original) The wrench of claim 1 further including a full-compression oblong tapered coil spring for biasing the retractable jaw member toward the base area.

8. (original) The wrench of claim 1 wherein the second jaw is shorter than the first jaw, whereby torque-related stresses within the material around the slot are reduced.

9-11. (cancelled)